

NEGATIVE DECLARATION

March 16, 2001

PROJECT SPONSOR

Bay Area Air Quality Management District

PROJECT LOCATION

This rule applies within the area covered by the Bay Area Air Quality Management District. The District includes all of seven counties - Alameda, Contra Costa, Marin, San Francisco, San Mateo, Santa Clara, and Napa - and portions of two others - southwestern Solano and southern Sonoma.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Regulation 8, Rule 43 limits the volatile organic compound (VOC) content of coatings applied within the BAAQMD to marine vessels. The proposed amendments to Rule 43 would exempt from VOC limits the brush or roller application of up to 55 gallons per year of coatings to historic vessels by a museum or park. The higher VOC coatings are required for compatibility with existing coatings used on historic vessels maintained and displayed at the San Francisco Maritime National Historical Park, a unit of the National Park Service Park. No facility other than the San Francisco Maritime National Historical Park is expected to be affected by this proposed exemption. No other substantive amendments to Rule 43 are proposed, but some obsolete VOC limits and applicability dates will be deleted to make the rule easier to read and understand.

DETERMINATION

Pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (Public Resources Code Section 21000 et seq.), the District is the Lead Agency for the described project. The District has prepared an Initial Study (attached), and on the basis of that study, has determined that the project will not have a significant effect on the environment.

REVIEW PERIOD

Interested persons are invited to send written comments on the Negative Declaration to Ellen Garvey, Executive Officer/Air Pollution Control Officer, Bay Area Air Quality Management District, 939 Ellis Street, San Francisco, California, 94109. Comments must be received by 5:00 p.m. on Monday, April 9, 2001.

Questions regarding the project or the Negative Declaration should be directed to Bill Guy at 415-749-4773.